

## Safe Scooting

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

In addition to wearing an approved helmet, it is wise to wear other protection such as knee, wrist and elbow pads.

### MECHANICAL CHECK

Conduct a mechanical inspection of your scooter before you ride. Check all nuts and bolts to make sure they are tight. Make sure the steering moves freely. Check your brakes. Make sure the engine shuts off when the brakes are applied.

### KNOW YOUR SCOOTER

Read the instruction manual and become familiar with your scooter's controls. Follow all safety warnings provided with your scooter.

### RIDE DEFENSIVELY

If you ride a scooter on a public street, remember that you share the road with automobiles. It is easier for you to see them, than for them to see you. Do not dart in and out of traffic. Use bicycle lanes if they are available. If you need to make a left turn, you are required by law to get off your scooter and walk it across the street in the crosswalk. Assume that other drivers do not see you and anticipate their moves to avoid problems. Don't be in too much of a hurry. Scooters are not toys, but a mode of transportation which must be used by responsible people.

## Noise Complaints

The Vehicle Code currently has no specific laws regarding noise restrictions on motorized scooters. Section 415 of the Penal Code addresses noise disturbances in general. The city of Long Beach and most other cities have local ordinances regarding noise disturbances as well.

If the noise from a motorized scooter is such that it is disturbing the peace, the police may be called and the violator could receive a citation. The criteria used is whether the noise would disturb a "person of normal sensitivity." A "private person's" arrest would be necessary for the police to take action.

When operating motorized scooters, be mindful of others in regards to noise. If you operate a scooter which has a modified exhaust system, you could be in violation.



For further information regarding this brochure, or for other crime prevention material, call or write to:

### LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Relations Division  
Crime Prevention Unit  
100 Long Beach Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
**(562) 570-7215**



# Motorized Scooters

- Applicable Laws
- Scooter Safety
- Noise Issues



An Overview Provided By  
The Long Beach Police Department

## Introduction

Motorized scooters can be a fun and effective form of transportation and recreation. The California Legislature recognizes the need to reduce traffic congestion, and has identified motorized scooters as one way to accomplish this. Gas powered scooters are low-emission, and therefore, better for the environment than automobiles. Electric scooters are quiet and produce no air pollution.

It is important to remember that motorized scooters are self propelled, and must be handled responsibly. If you intend to purchase a motorized scooter, you must be aware of, and abide by, the laws regarding them. Additionally, there are certain things you can do to make your time on a scooter safer. This brochure is intended to give you an overview of the laws and safety concerns regarding motorized scooters.

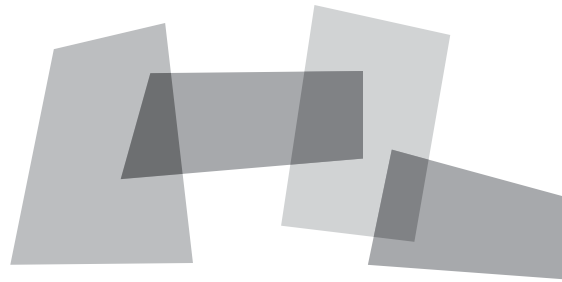


Don't forget to record the serial number of your scooter and store the number in a safe place. It is also a good idea to engrave identifying information such as a drivers license number on it. In the event your scooter is stolen, you have a much better chance of getting it back if you provide the police with this information.

## Applicable Laws

The operation of motorized scooters is governed by local and state law. The California Vehicle Code (CVC) contains laws which apply to motorized scooters. The Vehicle Code sections which apply to motorized scooters are 407.5 and 21220-21240. Motorized scooters are defined as "any two-wheel device that has handlebars, is designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator and is powered by a motor" (electric or gas).

Motorized scooters are not considered "motor vehicles" as defined in the Vehicle Code. However, there are age restrictions and other laws you must follow when operating one. Failure to obey the laws, can result in a citation. A summary of the laws is contained here. If you are interested in reading the detailed account of the law, a copy can be obtained online, at your local public library or at the Long Beach Police Department's Community Relations Division.



**VEHICLE CODE ONLINE**  
[www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

**WALK-IN VIEWING**  
Long Beach Police Department  
Community Relations Division  
333 West Broadway, Suite 100  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Telephone (562) 570-7215

## Commonly Asked Questions

**Q: IS THERE A MINIMUM AGE TO RIDE A MOTORIZED SCOOTER?**

A: Yes. You must be at least 16 years old.

**Q: DO I NEED A HELMET?**

A: Yes. The helmet must be properly fitted and fastened.

**Q: DO I NEED A DRIVERS LICENSE?**

A: No. Since a motorized scooter is not considered a "motor vehicle," a drivers license is not required.

**Q: DO I HAVE TO STOP AT STOP SIGNS AND RED LIGHTS?**

A: Yes. Anyone riding a scooter on a public road must follow all the rules of the road. You are also prohibited from operating a scooter while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**Q: CAN A FRIEND RIDE WITH ME?**

A: No. Only one person at a time is allowed.

**Q: IF I RIDE AT NIGHT, DO I NEED LIGHTS?**

A: Yes. You must have a white headlight, red rear reflector and yellow side reflectors.

**Q: CAN I RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK?**

A: No. Only to enter or leave a driveway.

**Q: IS THERE A SPEED LIMIT?**

A: Yes. Not to exceed 15 MPH.

**Q: WHAT ABOUT BRAKES?**

A: You must have a working brake, which disengages the motor when applied.